

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A menu item displaying method for a vehicle navigation apparatus in which menu items are displayed on a screen and when a predetermined menu item is selected by a user, a function corresponding to the selected menu item is executed, said menu item displaying method comprising:

determining whether a navigation apparatus function corresponding to a menu item displayed on the screen can be executed; and

if it is determined that said function cannot be executed, disabling said menu item corresponding to said function from being selected and displaying a reason why said menu item cannot be selected;

wherein said navigation apparatus function comprises a user registering navigation related data in a memory in which only a predetermined amount of data can be registered, and when said predetermined amount of data is already registered in said memory, a message indicating that said menu item cannot be selected due to memory limitations is displayed in the field of said menu item for registering data.

2. (Original) A menu item displaying method according to Claim 1, wherein a concise message indicating said reason is displayed in a field of said menu item.

3. (Original) A menu item displaying method according to one of Claims 1 and 2, wherein said disabled menu item is displayed so as to be distinguished from non-disabled menu items.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) A menu item displaying method according to one of Claims 1 and 2, wherein a further function comprises reading data that is set in a memory to have a predetermined function executed, and when no data is set in said memory, a message indicating that said menu item cannot be selected due to no data being set in said memory is displayed in the field of said menu item .

6. (Previously presented) A menu item displaying method according to one of Claims 1 and 2, wherein:

in the field of said menu item corresponding to a function which can be executed only while said navigation apparatus performs route guiding, when said route guidance is not in progress, a message indicating that said menu item cannot be selected due to the fact that route guiding is not in progress is displayed.

7. (Previously presented) A vehicle navigation apparatus for displaying menu items on a screen and, when a predetermined menu item is selected, for executing a function corresponding to the selected menu item, said navigation apparatus comprising:

an operation unit for displaying the menu items and performing a selection operation of said predetermined menu item;

a state storing unit for storing the state of the navigation apparatus;

a determining unit for determining, based on the state of the navigation apparatus stored in said state storing unit, whether a function corresponding to a menu item displayed on the screen can be executed;

a disabling unit for disabling said menu item corresponding to said function from being selected if it is determined by said determining unit that said function cannot be executed; and

a displaying control unit for displaying a reason why said menu item cannot be selected when it is determined by said determining unit that said function cannot be executed;

wherein, in the field of said menu item corresponding to a function which can be executed only while said navigation apparatus performs route guiding, when said route guidance is not in progress, a message indicating that said menu item cannot be selected due to the fact that route guiding is not in progress is displayed.

8. (Previously presented) A vehicle navigation apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said display control unit displays, in a field of said menu item, a concise message which indicates the reason why said menu item cannot be selected.

9. (Currently amended) A menu item displaying method for a vehicle navigation apparatus in which menu items are displayed on a screen and when a predetermined menu item is selected by a user, a function corresponding to the selected menu item is executed, said menu item displaying method comprising:

determining whether a navigation apparatus function corresponding to a menu item displayed on the screen can be executed; and

if it is determined that said function cannot be executed, disabling said menu item corresponding to said function from being selected and displaying a reason why said menu item cannot be selected;

wherein said navigation apparatus function comprises reading navigation related data that is set by a user in a memory to have a predetermined function executed, and when no data is set in said memory, a message indicating that said menu item cannot be selected due to no data being set in said memory is displayed in the field of said menu item.

10. (Previously presented) A menu item displaying method according to Claim 9, wherein a concise message indicating said reason is displayed in a field of said menu item.

11. (Previously presented) A menu item displaying method according to Claim 9, wherein said disabled menu item is displayed so as to be distinguished from non-disabled menu items.

12. (Previously presented) A menu item displaying method according to Claim 9, wherein:

in the field of said menu item corresponding to a function which can be executed only while said navigation apparatus performs route guiding, when said route guidance is not in progress, a message indicating that said menu item cannot be selected due to the fact that route guiding is not in progress is displayed.